

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention; (2) rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tomesko (U.S. Patent No. 4,502,909); (3) and rejected claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Savoie (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,965).

Applicants have amended claims 8-10 and added new claims 11 and 12. Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Tomesko, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner, is directed to a method for adhering a workpiece to a support block. Tomesko discloses a pitch blocking machine (Figure 1) that includes a pitch block 32 which supports a lens precursor 34 therein. Tomesko further discloses a pitch block 36 having a spherical surface for mating with a base curve in the surface of the lens precursor 34.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites,

1. An apparatus for blocking a work-piece during lens manufacturing, said apparatus comprising:
 - a work-piece holder for receiving said work-piece; and
 - a block for interfacing with said work piece based on a predetermined pressure, wherein said predetermined pressure is applied on said block.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Tomesko discloses a block for interfacing with a work piece based on a predetermined pressure, wherein the

predetermined pressure is applied on the block. In support, the Examiner relied on column 4 lines 10-23 of Tomesko. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

In particular, the section cited by the Examiner discloses an air actuated cylinder 38 that controls the movement of a support member 18, wherein the pitch block 36 is clamped in the top chuck 16 that is mounted on the moveable support member 18.

This section of Tomesko, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, however, does not disclose applying a predetermined pressure on the block. Rather, although this section discusses using an air cylinder to move a supported member, it does not disclose a predetermined pressure, nor interfacing a work piece based on a predetermined pressure.

Moreover, Tomesko discloses that a tie bar 42 that is attached to the support member 18 is moved between a lower position (illustrated in solid lines in Figure 2) and an upper position by means of the air cylinder 38 to translate the top chuck 16. (col. 4 lines 16-24). Tomesko further discloses that in operation, when the top chuck 16 reaches its lowermost position, a shuttle valve is used to maintain the top chuck 16 in this lowermost position. (col. 13: 10-17).

As such, rather than disclosing interfacing a work piece based on a predetermined pressure as asserted by the Examiner, Tomesko instead teaches moving a top chuck to a lowermost position and maintaining it in this position.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Tomesko for at least the reason that Tomesko does not teach a block for interfacing with said work piece based on a predetermined pressure, wherein said predetermined pressure is applied on said block, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 2-5, and 11 are likewise allowable over Tomesko for at least the reason that claims 2-5, and 11 depend from allowable independent claim 1.

With regard to claims 6 and 7, the Examiner rejected these claims as being anticipated by Savoie.

Savoie is directed to a method for generating a virtual entity of an ophthalmic lens blank in a computer environment and for using this entity to monitor and control a lens generation process. In rejecting claim 6, the Examiner relied on column 16 line 19 column 18 line 16 of Savoie, which discloses a method for generating an ophthalmic lens. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, this section of Savoie does not disclose positioning said fixture on said work piece using a predetermined pressure applied on said fixture, as recited in claim 6.

Rather, this method of Savoie discloses the lens generating apparatus generating a surface on a lens blank while the system monitors a position and displacement of the lens surfacing tool in a special coordinate system relative to virtual entity of the lens blank. (col. 18 lines 7-11).

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6 and 7 are allowable over Savoie for at least the reason that Savoie does not disclose positioning said fixture on said work piece using a predetermined pressure applied on said fixture.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 8-10 under §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended these claims to depend from claim 7. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 8-10.

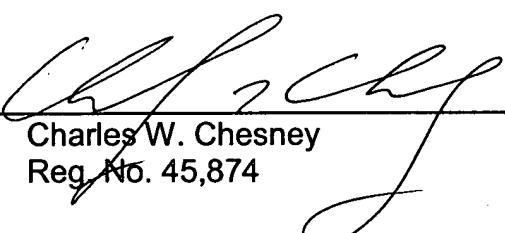
Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 12 are allowable over the cited references for at least they depend from allowable independent claim 7.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-0311

Respectfully submitted,

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